



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE, BEING FELON IN POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to illegally distributing crack cocaine and illegally possessing a firearm.

James L. Woods, 27, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to charges contained in a Feb. 9, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Woods** pleaded guilty to distributing five grams or more of crack cocaine between July 8, 2004, and Jan. 18, 2005, in Jackson County, Mo. Specifically, **Woods** admitted that he distributed crack cocaine on July 8, 2004, and Jan. 18, 2005. **Woods** also agreed to forfeit to the government any proceeds derived as a result of his sale of crack cocaine, including \$6,888 seized from him on Jan. 21, 2005.

Woods also pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a Taurus .38-caliber revolver on Jan. 18, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Woods** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for sale of a controlled substance.

Under federal statutes, Graves said, **Woods** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow